

**Palm Beach County  
Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)**

**Response to Child Sexual Abuse & Sexual Assault Cases**

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**I. PURPOSE:**

To provide guidelines regarding the community's response to forensic exams for child sexual abuse victims.

**II. SCOPE:**

This protocol addresses the response of all community responders to acute and non-acute child sexual abuse and sexual assault cases (ages 0-17).

1. Acute sexual abuse or sexual assault is defined as a sexual abuse or sexual assault with vaginal, anal, digital or oral penetration where 72 hours or less has passed since the sexual abuse or sexual assault, verified by a fact finding interview with DCF or law enforcement or there was an eye witness account.
2. Non-acute is defined as a sexual assault where more than 72 hours has passed.

**III. RESPONSIBILITY:**

It is the responsibility of each entity that responds to child sexual abuse victims to provide clear guidance to their staff on how to proceed.

**IV. POLICY:**

1. Daytime Response Child 0-17 (8 a.m. - 5 p.m. excluding holidays and weekends)
  - a. When a call is received by either the abuse hotline or law enforcement for an acute and non acute child sexual assault and it is determined that it is a DCF case, the DCF investigator will contact CPT during regular business hours by calling their daytime number- 561-433-3544 to schedule an appointment.
  - b. In those instances that DCF is not involved in the investigation, such as non-caretaker or non-familial cases, law enforcement shall contact CPT to schedule an appointment by calling 561-433-3544.
2. After Hours Response (5 p.m. - 8 a.m. including weekends and holidays)
  - a. Acute Sexual Assault within 72 hours post assault child 0-17: When a call is received by either the abuse hotline or law enforcement for an acute sexual assault/penetration that has been verified via a fact finding interview by DCF, law enforcement or eye witness account, the DCF investigator will contact CPT by calling the after-hours number 561-629-0350. For non-DCF cases, the law enforcement officer will contact CPT by calling the afterhours number 561-629-0350 to provide an immediate response for a forensic examination.
  - b. Acute Sexual assault 72-120 hours post assault child age 14-17 non-familial/non-caretaker: Law enforcement will then follow the Sexual Battery Investigations General Order for Law

Enforcement which outlines Victim Services dispatch of a victim advocate and SANE to either the Butterfly House or area hospital. Contact Palm Beach County Victim Services helpline at 561-833-7273.

- c. Non-Acute Sexual Assault 72-120 hours post assault child 0-13: Depending on circumstances, law enforcement will determine if the child should be brought to an area hospital for an immediate forensic examination to preserve the evidence or if a delayed exam is appropriate.

The Child Protection Team is available for consultation to assist in determining the best interests of the child.